

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NEA-12

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R 121822Z APR 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI
USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T STATE 074854

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR, CY, US
SUBJECT: GREEK-TURKISH TENSIONS

REF: A. ANKARA 2684; B. ATHENS 2228

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES THOUGHTFUL COMMENTS CONTAINED
REFTELS. WE CONCUR WITH EMBASSIES' BELIEF THAT SINCE
THERE IS NO INDICATION OF LIKELY EARLY DANGEROUS ESCALA-
TION OF TENSION, BEST US APPROACH IS TO CONTINUE UNOBTRU-
SIVE WATCHING BRIEF. WE ALSO AGREE, HOWEVER, THAT AS
OPPORTUNITIES ARISE, US SHOULD INDICATE IN LOW KEY HOPE
FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

2. AS REGARDS RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED PARA 5 (C) REF A,
WE BELIEVE NATO SECRETARY GENERAL ALREADY HAS WEATHER EYE
ON GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS AND THAT OUR TAKING MATTER UP
WITH NATO ALLIES AT THIS TIME MIGHT CONVEY GREATER SENSE

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OF US ALARM THAN WE WOULD WISH. IF TENSIONS APPEAR ABOUT

TO ESCALATE SUBSEQUENTLY, HOWEVER, WE MAY WELL WANT TO PURSUE THIS AVENUE.

3. AS REGARDS FINAL RECOMMENDATION REF A, WE AGREE THAT AS GENERAL PROPOSITION US SHOULD BE ALERT TO OPPORTUNITIES TO BRING TURKISH AND GREEK SENIOR OFFICERS INTO MORE FRE-QUENT CONTACT. WE SHALL WANT TO CONSIDER WHETHER THERE ARE ANY NEAR-TERM POSSIBILITIES WHICH WOULD ACCOMPLISH THIS

OBJECTIVE WITHOUT SEEMING TRANSPARENT. KISSINGER

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